

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U. S. Application No. 09/965,890

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. Applicant adds new claims 16-23. Claims 1, 4-6, 10, 11, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,344,836 B1) (“Suzuki”). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Jenkin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,377,228 B1) (“Jenkin”). Claims 3, 7-9, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Yoshida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,617,112) (“Yoshida”). Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of Parker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,097) (“Parker”). New claims 16-23 are added to more particularly claim the invention and the following arguments are submitted to traverse the prior art rejections.

Applicant’s invention relates to a medical image display system including a plurality of flat panel displays, a casing for integrally accommodating the plurality of flat panel displays, a power source common to the plurality of flat panel displays, and a control unit controlling the plurality of flat panel displays. In an embodiment, the system can display a plurality of medical images as soft copy images and can also be used to observe film on which an image taken by a medical diagnostic apparatus is reproduced.

Prior art rejections under § 102(e)

Claims 1, 4-6, 10, 11, and 15 are rejected over Suzuki. Suzuki relates to an information browsing system which has one system device and a plurality of displays individually connected to the system device by a serial interface. Data is transmitted through the serial interface to the displays so that different information is displayed on each of the displays.

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Applicant submits that the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Suzuki is improper because the reference fails to anticipate each and every element of claim 1. In a combination with other elements, claim 1 recites a “medical image display system comprising a plurality of flat panel displays” and “a casing for integrally accommodating said plurality of flat panel displays.” Nowhere in Suzuki is there any mention of the claimed casing. In the portion of Suzuki cited by the Examiner as disclosing the claimed casing (col. 7, lines 4-7), only one display 30 is disclosed: the display 30 is described as having a “liquid crystal panel 31 as an image display device” (col. 7, lines 6-7). In claim 1, however, there is a casing for integrally accommodating said plurality of flat panel displays. Although a plurality of displays is disclosed in FIGS. 6-7 of Suzuki, none of the figures show a plurality of displays accommodated in a casing as recited in the claim.

Further, Applicant submits that Suzuki fails to teach a power source common to said plurality of flat panel displays as in claim 1. In Suzuki, the power supply switch referenced by the Examiner equips display 30 with a touch panel, not a plurality of flat panel displays (col. 7, lines 4-7).

Claims 4-6, 10, 11, and 15, which depend from claim 1, are believed to be patentable for the arguments presented for claim 1.

Alternatively, or in addition, claim 6 is patentable because Suzuki fails to recite a medical image display system wherein one display has at least one of screen size, pixel size, number of pixels, and an aspect ratio which is different from the other a plurality of displays. Suzuki only discloses displays with same number of pixels, aspect ratio, and color depth, and makes no

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disclosure of two displays which are different in at least one of the features recited in claim 6 (col. 5, lines 32-43).

Claim 11 is also believed to be patentable because Suzuki fails to recite the designation of an image on one display and displaying an enlarged or image-processed image of the designated image on another display. Applicant submits that the Examiner has not even addressed how Suzuki anticipates each and every feature of claim 11.

Prior art rejections under § 103(a)

Claim 2 is rejected over Suzuki in view of Jenkin. Jenkin relates to a large-scale video surface constructed by adjoining a number of flat screen display devices together. Applicant submits that claim 2 is patentable over the combination of Suzuki and Jenkin. Nowhere in the combination of two references is there any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for a holding unit for holding a medical film to superpose it on an image displaying screen. While Jenkin does disclose the use of touch-sensitive panels, the reference fails to make any mention or provide a suggestion for the claimed holding unit. The Examiner's citation to numerous sensor per square inch (col. 3, lines 65-67) does not explain why the claimed holding device for superposing a medical film is present in Jenkin.

In addition, Applicant submits that Jenkin fails to make up for the deficiency of Suzuki with regard to the casing for integrally accommodating said plurality of flat panel displays. Applicant submits that nowhere in Suzuki is there any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for the claimed casing.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has improperly combined Suzuki and Jenkin because the Examiner has not shown that one skilled in the art would combine the references. In

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all of the examples of its application, the system disclosed by Suzuki utilizes a plurality of displays each of which are placed at different locations (FIGS. 5-7). In contrast, Jenkin teaches the adjoining of a large number of displays that appears as a single screen (Abstract). In effect, Suzuki or Jenkin expressly teach away from the teachings of the other reference. Therefore, there is nothing in the references which suggests or motivates one skilled in the art to combine Suzuki and Jenkin.

Claims 3, 7-9, and 12 are rejected over Suzuki in view of Yoshida. Yoshida relates to a display control device for controlling the brightness of a display installed in a vehicular cabin. The device controls the brightness of the display according to a change in environmental conditions and an opening degree of human pupil.

Claims 3, 7-9, and 12, which depend from claim 1, are patentable for the reasons submitted for claim 1: nowhere in the combination of Suzuki and Yoshida is there any teaching, suggestion, or motivation for a medical image displaying system comprising a plurality of displays and a casing for integrally accommodating the plurality of displays.

As for claim 7, Applicant submits that the Examiner has improperly relied on claim 7 as rendering claim 7 obvious. Applicant requests the Examiner to explain how “[f]rom claim 7, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art” to have the claimed display.

Claim 8 is patentable because the combination of Suzuki and Yoshida fails to teach, suggest, or provide motivation for a medical image display system wherein the casing has a light box for observing medical film. Further, claim 9 is patentable because the references fail to teach, suggest, or provide motivation for a medical image display system comprising a controller, to judge whether an image to be displayed is a color image or a monochromic image to allow a

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corresponding display to display the image. Applicant submits that the Examiner has not even addressed the features of claims 8 and 9 in her rejections of these claims.

Claim 12 is patentable because the references fail to disclose a medical image display system wherein the maximum luminance values of all displays are set to a predetermined value, equal to or smaller than the maximum luminance value of a flat panel display in which the maximum luminance value is the lowest. In other words, the luminance values of all displays are modified according to one display. On the other hand, Yoshida discloses the control of the brightness of a display with respect to the variation in environmental light intensity (col. 6, lines 3-5. The FIGS. 5 and 6 show examples of brightness control (A', B', C', D') for various changes in environmental light intensity conditions (A, B, C, D). Nowhere in the Yoshida or in Suzuki is there any mention of setting the display characteristics of displays according to the display characteristic of one display.

Claims 13-14 are rejected over Suzuki in view of Parker. Parker relates to an apparatus for calibrating the longitudinal accuracy of marking devices. The apparatus uses a comparison of a pattern printed in the transverse direction to a pattern printed in the longitudinal direction to calibrate the longitudinal scale.

Applicant submits that claims 13-14, which depend from claim 1, are patentable at least for the reasons submitted for claim 1.

Alternatively, or in addition, Applicant submits that claims 13 and 14 are patentable because the Examiner has not set forth a prima facie case of obviousness. The Examiner has improperly combined the references because the Examiner has failed to put forth a valid motivation to combine the teachings of Suzuki and Parker. Examiner essentially states that it

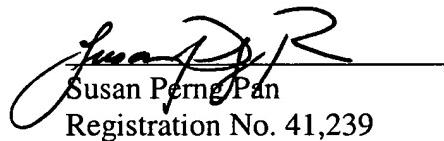
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would have been obvious to incorporate the printer as taught by Parker in the display system of Suzuki. Parker, however, discloses an invention for calibrating the longitudinal accuracy of printers which print on paper rolls, or fan folds of paper (col. 1, lines 64-65) for printing a log along the longitudinal axis which can be over twenty feet long (col. 1, lines 58-59). Nowhere in Suzuki, or Parker, is there any suggestion or motivation for, or the desirability of, the information browsing system of Suzuki with the longitudinal calibration apparatus of Parker in the manner espoused by the Examiner to render claims 13 and 14 obvious.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 10, 2003